

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Independent School District No. 820
Sebeka, MN 56477
March 10, 2025

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following members were in attendance: Jeannie Arthur, Nathan Erickson, Kayla Frame, Cheri Kangas, Eric Nelson and JoAnn Olson. Absent: Rodney Huttunen. Also present were Superintendent Dave Kerkvliet; Business Manager Holly Paulson; staff members Jerome Meyer, Melissa Koch and Meghan Adams; Student Council Representative Kelcie Kuschel; and Review Messenger Reporter Dave Hanson.

Frame moved, Olson seconded to approve the agenda with the following additions: 7.5.3 Approve resignation of elementary teacher Jordan Jenkins; 9.4 Approve resolution stating the intent to purchase capital facilities bonds; and 9.5 EMS Intent to negotiate. Motion carried unanimously.

Student Council Representative Kelcie Kuschel reported on the following for Student Council: second semester started January 21st with Homecoming activities planned; winter sports ended with wrestling going to State; planning an end of 3rd quarter fun day for students; Senior Band had their contest in Staples and received an excellent rating; planning activities for St. Patrick's Day; and will be doing the NCAA bracket challenge for students who are interested.

The Budget Committee has met a couple of times and are in the process of working through ideas for budget savings including capital needs, cost contaminants, new revenue streams, capital facilities bonds, Federal funding and negotiations.

Business Manager Holly Paulson reported on the following: ACA 1095 Forms for 2024 have been completed and submitted to the IRS; completed the final FY2024 ESSER survey and submitted to MDE; received information from the Department of Labor regarding the Minnesota Paid Time Off Plan; scheduled a bid opening for health insurance renewal on March 24th at 10:00 a.m.; revised the Title I budget showing two teachers and one para for the second semester and noted that Title funds are short to cover the whole program but can use REAP funds to cover the balance; met with Freshwater staff for help on the Fiscal Self-Monitoring document; and Spring sports letters of assignments have been processed for coaches.

Mr. Lillquist's AD report included information regarding attendance at a PRC AD meeting on March 5th; Annika Pulju will be competing for State for the AAA Award at the State BBB tournament on Saturday, March 22nd; Softball and Track started practice on March 10th; pitchers and catchers for Baseball started conditioning throwing week on March 10th with the whole team starting practice on March 17th; and add Jason Steinke as Jr. High Baseball coach if needed.

Principal Westberg's report included the following information: 66% of seniors and 71% of juniors participated in Career Week; presenters for the Career Exploration Day commended our students and appreciated their attentiveness; elementary students enjoyed the 7th & 8th graders Sparks presentations; conferences from February 13th were a little slow with 89% of parents attending the elementary conference; four teachers will be attending the AVID summer workshops in San Diego with Sourcewell reimbursing for registration fees, plane tickets and hotel accommodations; and the Literacy curriculum has been approved as "partially aligned" to evidence-based structured literacy practices and districts should ensure that instruction and materials are enhanced to align with evidence-based structured literacy practices using district resources.

Superintendent Kerkvliet reported on the following information: Ehlers is assisting with a capital facilities bond gap financing for the solar project; attended a negotiations seminar through MSBA; has been communicating with legislators on behalf of rural school districts through MREA; working on talking points for providing testimony on HF957 at the Capital which would help free up restricted funds to be able to use them for our local needs through MASA; noted that Assistant Education Commissioner Dr. Macarre Traynham's (from MDE), visit to our school was very productive; scheduled Section G of the roof project over the kitchen area to be replaced this summer; reviewed MSBA policy updates; attended "Portrait of a Graduate" meetings with Mrs. Westberg; and reviewed a resolution from Freshwater to be able to levy LTFM revenue to address facility needs at the academy building noting that Sebeka's allocated cost would be \$3,252.53.

Under Discussion Items, Jodie Zesbaugh and Jen Chapman from Ehlers presented information regarding capital facilities bonds to help support short term financing for the solar project while waiting for Federal rebates to get processed; Superintendent Kerkvliet and Principal Westberg met with Eileen from Sourcewell to continue updating the strategic plan and focus on the following areas of Climate and Culture, Student Achievement and Opportunities, Parent & Community Engagement and Finance and Facilities; and Superintendent Kerkvliet reviewed capital needs for the 2025-2026 school year noting items on the list included roof repair over the kitchen, track uniforms (Menahga pays half), bus lease, bus purchase, van purchase, track fund (continue to save with Menahga), transportation equipment, gym floor maintenance, HVAC software update, technology upgrades, and football crow's nest maintenance repair.

Kangas moved, Frame seconded to approve the following consent agenda items: February 10th regular meeting minutes and February 18th special meeting minutes; Treasurer and Investment report for March; monthly bills at \$696,118.26; Spring Sports Coaches: Baseball-Head Coach Jeff Lake, Assistant Reggie Kiser, Jr. High Tanner Burgau; Softball-Co-Head Coaches Jerome Meyer and Jon Lillquist, Assistant Stephney Maloney, Jr. High Emily Crabb; Track-Head Coach Tom Smith, Assistants Ed Heltunen and Thor Johnson; Golf-Head Coach Tim Wurdock, Assistants Becca Paju and Josh Roiko; resignation of elementary teacher Caroline Striebel effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year and thanked her for her years of service at Sebeka School; resignation of elementary teacher Jordan Jenkins effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year and thanked her for her years of service at Sebeka School and March enrollment at 434 students K-12. Motion carried unanimously.

Olson moved, Nelson seconded to approve updating MSBA policies 516 Student Medication (corrects formatting), 621 Literacy and the READ Act (Update statutory reference) and 906 Community Notification of Predatory Offenders (rearranges Articles II and III). Motion carried unanimously.

Erickson moved, Arthur seconded to approve updating MSBA policies 413 Harassment and Violence (updates definition of “disability” to reflect amended Minnesota law); 425 Staff Development and Mentoring (clarifies whether the board or school administration appoints staff development committee members) and 704 Development and Maintenance of an Inventory of Fixed Assets (update GASB guidance on asset capitalization). Motion carried unanimously.

Arthur moved, Kangas seconded to approve the second reading of the 2025-2026 school calendar starting with new teachers August 20th and all staff on August 25th through August 28th with the option of one or two floating teacher in-service days during the week of August 18th-August 22nd or August 29th; first student day starting on September 2nd; Graduation and last student day on May 22, 2026 and teacher Inservice on May 26th and May 27th as a second option for a floating teacher day. Motion carried unanimously.

Erickson moved, Frame seconded to approve a resolution accepting the following donations - \$250 from Sebeka C&C for Homecoming and \$1,000 from Tom and Kyle Schulz for the Preschool playground. The following members voted in favor: Arthur, Erickson, Frame, Kangas, Nelson, Olson; against: None; Absent: Rodney Huttunen; therefore, the resolution was duly adopted.

Frame moved, Olson seconded to approve a resolution for Freshwater to levy their LTFM revenue to address facility needs at the academy building noting that Sebeka’s allocated cost would be \$3,252.53. The following members voted in favor: Arthur, Erickson, Frame, Kangas, Nelson, Olson; against: None; Absent: Rodney Huttunen; therefore, the resolution was duly adopted.

Olson moved, Arthur seconded to approve changing the April 14th board meeting to Monday, April 21st at 6:00 p.m. in the District Office.

Erickson moved, Frame seconded to approve a resolution stating the intention of the school board to issue general obligation capital facilities bonds, Series 2025A, in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$255,000; and taking other actions with respect thereto. The following members voted in favor: Arthur, Erickson, Frame, Kangas, Nelson, Olson; against: None; Absent: Rodney Huttunen; therefore, the resolution was duly adopted.

Kangas moved, Frame seconded to approve the EMS letter of intent to reopen negotiations for the 2025-2027 school years. Motion carried unanimously.

Arthur moved, Frame seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:26 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

JoAnn Olson
Clerk of Sebeka School District